

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Government has reduced the Central Issue Prices (C.I.P.) of rice and wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) from 25.7.2000.

(d) Details regarding the offtake of rice and wheat under Public Distribution System (PDS)/TPDS from 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 (April, 2000 to June, 2000) are as under:—

Fig. in Lakh tonnes

| Year | Offtake (P) | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------|
| | Rice | Wheat |
| 1995-96 | 93.33 | 51.59 |
| 1996-97 | 110.14 | 83.70 |
| 1997-98 | 97.65 | 69.39 |
| 1998-99 | 106.21 | 78.24 |
| 1999-2000 | 108.20 | 48.55 |
| 2000-2001 | 18.10 | 6.79 |
| (April, 2000-June, 2000) | | |

(P) Provisional

Poor quality of PDS items supplied by FCI

2070. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of PDS items supplied by FCI to various States has been objected by several State Governments in the recent past;

(b) if so, whether wheat and rice which have been supplied to State Governments have been rejected by stating unfit for human

consumption;

(c) the criteria fixed by Governments / FCI to procure such items from farmers or cooperatives;

(d) whether Government propose to adopt scheme to procure only good quality wheat or rice for distribution under PDS; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Some State Governments viz., West Bengal, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamilnadu, Maharashtra, Jammu and Kashmir and Tripura had shown reluctance in accepting the rice procured under relaxed specification (URS rice), particularly procured in Punjab, during 1997-98 and 1998-99. The URS rice of 1997-98 has been frozen from issue under TPDS. However, the State Governments have been allowed to inspect the quality of foodgrains after joint sampling and satisfy themselves before lifting the same from FCI godowns.

(b) No wheat and rice supplied by FCI has been rejected by the States on the ground of being unfit for human consumption.

(c) to (e) Uniform (FAQ) specification of foodgrains are fixed by the Government before the commencement of procurement season, keeping in view the interest of both the farmers and consumers. Foodgrains strictly conforming to Uniform Specifications laid down by the Government are procured from farmers or cooperatives on Minimum Support Price (MSP) for distribution under PDS. Special drives are organised during the procurement of wheat, paddy and rice by the senior officers of Ministry, FCI and State Governments in procuring States to ensure that good quality foodgrains are procured.